

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01967 172342Z
ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-14 INR-05 L-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7079

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STADIS/////////////////////////////////
LIMDIS
FOR BOSWORTH FROM ENDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, CA
SUBJECT: TEXT OF DRAFT STATEMENT BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BOSWORTH ON ALASKA GAS PIPELINE FOR HOUSE SUB-
COMMITTEE HEARING APRIL 24

REF: STATE 097657

1. DRAFT STATEMENT LOOKS GOOD.
 2. SUGGEST THAT EITHER YOU OR SMITH ANTICIPATE QUESTION AS TO WHY U.S. DID NOT INSIST ON TEST OF 48-INCH HIGH PRESSURE PIPE AS INDICATED UNDER PARAGRAPH 10 (A) OF THE AGREEMENT. ANSWER IS THAT WE COULD HAVE INSISTED ON THE TEST, BUT IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE IT, ALLOWING FOR TOOLING UP THE PIPE MILLS, PRODUCING SEVERAL MILES OF PIPE UNDER STANDARD OPERATING CONDITIONS, INSTALLING IT IN THE ARCTIC AND BURST TESTING IT UNDER WINTER CONDITIONS. HAD WE GONE THIS ROUTE, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT ITS OUTCOME WOULD BE. MEANWHILE, LACK OF PIPE SPECIFICATION WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT
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OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE PROJECT, POSSIBLY RENDERING FINANCING MORE DIFFICULT AND THUS INTRODUCING A SIGNIFICANT AND COSTLY DELAY. WE OF COURSE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT TESTING WOULD YIELD A RESULT DIFFERENT THAN THAT OBTAINED FROM THE PROCESS ADOPTED. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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